



**AUSTRALIAN OWNED
CONTRACTORS**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Metronet – Australian project delivered by foreign contractors

Australian Owned Contractors (AOC) is disappointed in the Public Transport Authority's (PTA) procurement process for the Metronet Morley-Ellenbrook line, which will once again result in a foreign tier one contractor delivering the project.

The State Government today announced that Spanish-owned CPB Contractors and UK-owned Laing O'Rourke were short-listed to deliver the project.

It follows decisions to award CPB Contractors the contract for the Yanchep and Thornlie-Cockburn lines, and Spanish owned Acciona subsidiary Coleman Rail the contract for the Bayswater station.

AOC chief executive Brent Crockford said the Metronet project was shaping to become an Australian project delivered by foreign owned contractors.

Mr Crockford said the Morley-Ellenbrook procurement, much like other Metronet projects, did not encourage smaller Australian owned contractors to participate in the head contract.

"As a result, Australian contractors will have to subcontract and take orders from foreign companies on an iconic Australian project," he said.

"The PTA's procurement method was in stark contrast to that used by Main Roads WA on the Bunbury Outer Ring Road project which specifically included an industry sustainability criteria which gave Australian owned mid-tier contractors the opportunity to be involved in the head contract."

Mr Crockford said that an unfortunate pattern by governments across Australia to bundle large infrastructure projects effectively reserved them for foreign owned tier one contractors.

"Nearly 100 per cent of all major public infrastructure in this country is now delivered by foreign owned tier one contractors," he said.

"Australian mid-tier contractors are starved of opportunity to work on these projects and denied the chance to build capability and capacity in their businesses.

"The Metronet project has missed several opportunities to support local industry sustainability by failing to provide opportunities for Australian owned mid-tier contractors."

ABOUT AUSTRALIAN OWNED CONTRACTORS

Australian Owned Contractors advocates for Australian owned mid-tier construction companies to have more opportunities to deliver major public infrastructure projects across the country.

Australian Owned Contractors is made up of 12 local mid-tier construction companies across Australia:



Members of Australian Owned Contractors are:

- Majority Australian owned and controlled – at least 51% owned by Australian shareholders
- Have revenue in excess of \$250 million
- Companies that have participated in Federal and State Government funded infrastructure

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